REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 16, 18, 19 and 24 are active in this application.

Support for the amendment to Claim 16 is found in the specification on page 9, lines 9-12.

No new matter is believed to have been added by these amendments.

Applicants appreciate the withdrawal of the rejections based on Oldenhove.

To the maintained rejection based on Evers, Applicants request reconsideration of this rejection based on the amendment submitted for Claim 16 because Evers does not describe a mixture where the ethoxylates of C_{4-6} alkylglycols or diglycols are present in an amount of 0.1 to 10 % by weight of the mixture with the remaining proportion of the mixture allotted to the nonionic surfactants.

Evers describe compositions with at least one long-chain surfactant, which are stabilized by the additional presence of short-chain surfactants. On page 2, line 58 to page 3, line 19 suitable long-chain surfactants are C_{11}-C_{24} alkyl sulphates, alkyl ether sulphates, alkyl sulphonates, alkyl succinates, alkyl carboxylates, alkyl ether carboxylates, alkyl sarcosinates, sulphosuccinates, amine oxides, glucose amides, alkyl pyrrolidones, alkyl polysaccharides, alkyl alkoxylates and betaines. The Evers compositions can also have at least one short-chain surfactant, or mixtures thereof (page 3, lines 20 to 25 of Evers). Preferred short chain non-ionic surfactants which are present in the are alkyl alkoxylates, wherein a C6-C10-alkyl radical is ethoxylated with 0 to 20 units of ethylene oxide and/or propylene oxide (see page 3, lines 20-31). Preferred short chain alkyl alkoxylates are C6-C10-alkyl radicals, being ethoxylated with 3 to 8 units of ethylene oxide.

On page 3, lines 47-48, Evers "*if short chain non-ionic surfactants are used, it is preferred to observe a minimum weight ratio of short chain non-ionic to longer chain surfactant of 1:5*".

The definition that 0.1 to 10 % by weight in the mixture are alkyl glycol or -diglycol ethoxylates, and that the remaining proportion of this mixture is allotted to the non-ionic surfactants, are therefore mixtures in which the weight ratio of short chain surfactants, being the alkcyl glycol or -diglycol ethoxylates to long chain surfactants, being the C9-20- alkanols, being ethoxylated with 3 to 30 units of ethylene oxide of 0.001 and for 0.1 % by weight alkyl glycol or diglycol ethoxylates to 0.111 when 10 % by weight of alkylglyeol or -diglycol ethoxylates are in the mixture.

The difference between the Evers mixture and the mixture claimed is that the weight ratio of short chain non-ionic to longer chain surfactant in the mixture according to Evers is 1:5 being 0.2 or higher, whereas in the mixture according to amended claim 16 the weight ratio between the short chain surfactant and longer chain surfactant is between 0.001 and 0.111.

Therefore, the claims are not anticipated by Evers because Evers describes a different composition. The claims would also not have been obvious because Evers provides no suggestion for the mixture as claimed.

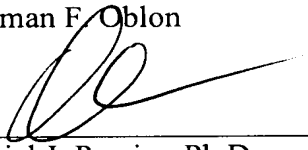
As discussed in the specification on page 5 the specific homolog distribution has a positive effect on wetting ability of wetting auxiliaries even in dilute systems and for increasing the solubility of wetting auxiliaries and aqueous formulations comprising non-anionic surfactants. Further as discussed on page 10 to 11 of the application, the mixtures of the claims have a better environmental and skin compatibility compared with the systems in EP A 616 026 (which is the cited Evers publication). In contrast to common solubilizers, interaction takes place specifically with the surfactants. The alkoxylated alkyl glycols in the claimed mixtures actively penetrate into the coating of the interface and accelerate the establishment of the interfacial equilibrium, which is not suggested in Evers et al.

Withdrawal of the rejections based on Evers is requested.

A Notice of Allowance is requested for all pending claims. Should the Examiner deem that any further action is required to place this application in even better form for allowance, he is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon



Daniel J. Pereira, Ph.D.
Registration No. 45,518

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)